

REMARKS

Claims 1-18 are pending in the present patent application. Claims 1-5 and 7-10 are allowed, claims 6, 11, 12, and 16-18 stand rejected; and claims 13-15 stand objected to. By this amendment, claim 6 has been amended. This application continues to include claims 1-18.

The Examiner has indicated that claims 1-5 and 7-10 are allowed. Applicant thanks the Examiner for allowing claim 1-5 and 7-10.

The Examiner has objected to claims 13-15 as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but has indicated that claims 13-15 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Applicant thanks the Examiner for the indication of allowability regarding claims 13-15. However, in view of Applicant's response, set forth below, regarding claim 11, Applicant respectfully requests the Examiner to withdraw the objection to claims 13-15.

The Examiner has indicated that claim 6 would be allowable if amended to overcome the rejection under 35 USC §112, second paragraph. Applicant thanks the Examiner for the indication of allowability regarding claim 6, has amended claim 6 as set forth below, and accordingly, believes amended claim 6 to be in condition for allowance.

Claim 6 was rejected under 35 USC §112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which Applicant regards as the invention. The Examiner indicated that claim 6 recites "a display device," then recites "controller coupled to display device," and indicated that it is unclear if the controller is coupled to the previously recited "a display device" or a different device.

Applicant has amended claim 6 to recite “controller coupled to said display device,” and thus believes that claim 6, as amended, particularly points out and distinctly claims the subject matter which Applicant regards as the invention.

Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests the Examiner to withdraw the rejection of claim 6 under 25 USC §112, second paragraph.

Claims 11-12 and 16-18 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Okuzawa, U.S. Patent No. 4,888,617 (hereinafter, Okuzawa). Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration of the rejection of claims 11-12 and 16-18 in view of the following.

Okuzawa is directed to an image recording device being capable of detecting a shortage of remaining image receptive members for allowing wasteless and efficient image formation (col. 1, lines 11-14). Okuzawa discloses a cassette 56 housing stacked image receptive sheets C of paper that is loaded into a lower corner of the housing 12 through a loading slot 58 (col. 5, lines 43-45). An arm 78 which is angularly movably supported at its center by a pivot shaft 74 is disposed in a space above the cassette 56 on the side thereof where the tongue 68 projects, and has an L-shaped end 79a which is pressed against the tongue a under the tension of a coil spring 80 acting on the other end portion of the arm 78 (col. 5, lines 63-68).

A detector 84 that is positionally adjustable is disposed in the vicinity of the other end 79b of arm 78, and detector 84 includes an attachment plate 86 mounted on housing 12 and a pair of support plates 90a, 90b, which defines a slit 88 therebetween through which the other end 79b of the arm 78 can pass (col. 6, lines 1-7). Support plates 90a, 90b support a light detector 92 such as a photodiode and a light-emitting element 94 such as a light-emitting diode, respectively, thereon in confront relation (col. 6, lines 7-10).

End 79a of the arm 78 is always held in contact with the tongue 68 on the side of the movable plate 62 under the tension of the coil spring 80, and when arm 78 is angularly moved in the direction of the arrow b about the pivot shaft 74 as the movable plate 62 ascends (col. 7, line 67 to col. 8, line3, Fig. 3). When arm 78 is turned a prescribed interval, the other end 79b thereof enters the slit 88 of the detector 84 mounted on the housing 12, and a light beam emitted from the light-emitting element 94 on the support plate 90b is cut off by the end 79b of the arm 78, so that the light beam is not detected by the light detector 92 (col. 8, lines 6-10).

Applicant believes that claims 11-12 and 16-18 patentably define Applicant's invention over Okuzawa, for at least the reasons set forth below.

Claim 11 is directed to a method for performing print media depletion detection in an imaging apparatus. Claim 11 recites, in part, providing a mid-frame having a slot, and detecting with said sensor one of a presence and an absence of said sense surface in said slot of said mid-frame as a determination of the depletion of said supply of print media at said print media support.

In contrast to providing a mid-frame having a slot, and detecting with the sensor one of a presence and an absence of the sense surface in the slot of the mid-frame as a determination of the depletion of the supply of print media at the print media support, Okuzawa discloses that detector 84 includes an attachment plate 86 mounted on housing 12 and a pair of support plates 90a, 909b, which defines a slit 88 therebetween through which the other end 79b of the arm 78 can pass (col. 6, lines 1-7) (Emphasis added). Support plates 90a, 90b support a light detector 92 such as a photodiode and a light-emitting element 94 such as a light-emitting diode, respectively, thereon in confront relation (col. 6, lines 7-10).

Okuzawa also discloses that When arm 78 is turned a prescribed interval, the other end 79b thereof enters the slit 88 of the detector 84 mounted on the housing 12, and a light beam emitted from the light-emitting element 94 on the support plate 90b is cut off by the end 79b of the arm 78, so that the light beam is not detected by the light detector 92 (col. 8, lines 6-10).

Thus, rather than providing a mid-frame having a slot, and detecting with the sensor one of a presence and an absence of the sense surface in the slot of the mid-frame, as recited in claim 11, Okuzawa discloses that a pair of support plates 90a, 90b, which defines a slit 88 therebetween, are mounted on housing 12, and that when end 79b of the arm 78 pass between the support plates, the light beam is not detected by light detector 92. Accordingly, the Okuzawa slit 88 is not a slot in a mid-frame, but rather, are plates that are mounted onto the housing 12.

In addition, by having the slot in the mid-frame, Applicant's invention avoids the necessity of incurring the cost and complexity associated with having separate additional components, such as the supports plates 90a and 90b disclosed by Okuzawa.

Accordingly, for at least the reasons set forth above, Applicant respectfully submits that Okuzawa does not disclose, teach, or suggest the subject matter of claim 11. Claim 11 is thus believed allowable in its present form.

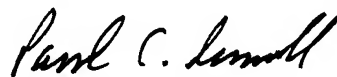
Claims 12 and 16-18 are believed allowable due to their dependence on otherwise allowable base claim 11. In addition, claims 12 and 16-18 further and patentably define the invention over Okuzawa.

For the foregoing reasons, Applicant submits that the pending claims are definite and do particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which Applicant regards as the invention. Moreover, Applicant submits that no combination of the cited references teaches,

discloses or suggests the subject matter of the appended claims. The appended claims are therefore in condition for allowance, and Applicant respectfully requests withdrawal of all rejections and allowance of the claims.

In the event Applicant has overlooked the need for an extension of time, an additional extension of time, payment of fee, or additional payment of fee, Applicant hereby conditionally petitions therefor and authorizes that any charges be made to Deposit Account No. 20-0095, TAYLOR & AUST, P.C.

Respectfully submitted,



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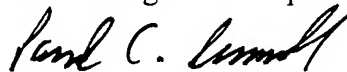
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Date